

Obtaining a Marriage License

If you've just set a date for your wedding or are just gathering information, this can be an extremely exciting time for the two of you! Here is what you need to know to apply for a Marriage License.

You will need a valid marriage license (called a Massachusetts Certificate of Marriage) before you are married. A marriage license issued by another state cannot be used for wedding ceremonies in Massachusetts. Similarly, a Massachusetts marriage license is not valid in other states. The fee in Rockland to file your marriage intentions is \$30.00, this includes a copy of your Marriage Certificate which will be mailed to you after we receive the license back properly filled out by the officiant.

There is a three day waiting period before you can pick up the license. Weekends and holidays are included in the three days, but the day of the application is not. Thus, if you apply on a Monday you can pick up the license on Thursday, or if you apply on a Friday you can pick up the license on Monday. A waiver of the three day waiting period can be applied for at the courthouse and then presented to the Town Clerk. The town clerk can then issue your marriage certificate the same day however, this can be costly. Currently the fee at the Local District Court is \$195.00. You can call one of the numbers below and ask for instructions on the process.

Courts of Law

215 Main St, #130, Brockton, MA	(508) 587-8000
1 Dennis Ryan Pkwy, Quincy, MA	(617) 471-1650
1288 Central St, Stoughton, MA	(781) 344-2131
Russell Ave, Plymouth, MA	(508) 747-8430
28 George Washington Blvd, Hingham, MA	(781) 749-7000

You can apply for a marriage license at any city or town hall in Massachusetts (it doesn't have to be where you live or where you are getting married but you will want it to be a location that you will remember in 10 or 20 years when you need a copy). You will both need to appear in person; you cannot have someone else apply for the license. The only exception is that a person in the military may have the other party file for the license alone, as long as one is a Massachusetts resident and the commanding officer provides a letter stating why the enlisted party cannot be present.

Blood tests are no longer required. Identification may be requested if either party looks as though they are under the age of 18. If you are a widow or widower you do not have to bring a death certificate. Persons who are divorced do not have to bring a divorce decree, but should be certain that their divorce is absolute.

The license is valid for 60 days from the day you first apply.

When you come to pick up your license, check it carefully to make sure that all the information listed is correct. You will need to give the license to your officiant before the wedding. Once you give the license to your officiant your job is done. Both parties getting married are not required to pick up the license together. A relative or friend can pick up the license for you.

Officiants are not permitted to give you a photo copy of the license. The officiant is required to complete the Certificate of Marriage and mail it back to the Town Clerk from whom you obtained your license, or it may be hand-delivered to the Town Clerk's office.

Some of the Justice of the Peace in the Town of Rockland:

Donald Cann - 64 Union St 781-878-0060

Ellen Clinton – 16 Grasswood Cir 781-878-2232

Nancy Dymment-Travers – 167 W. Water St 781-878-2232

Donald Mailloux - 3 Meredith Way 781-982-7006

Ann Metivier-Carroll – 287 Concord St 781-878-2232

Donna Shortall- Town Clerk is available for marriages scheduled to take place at Town Hall

If you wish to have a member of the clergy who is from out-of-state, the clergy person must obtain a Certificate of Authorization from the Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth prior to the ceremony. This process can take a few weeks so please plan accordingly. This certificate which is issued by the Public Records Division of the Secretary of the Commonwealth is to be returned with the original license to the clerk of the city or town where the license was issued. For further information, contact:

Division of Public Records
Secretary of the Commonwealth
One Ashburton Place, Room 1719
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 727-2836

It is possible for a non-minister or non-justice of the peace (such as a relative or family friend) to obtain special permission to perform a marriage from the Secretary of State.

<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/onedayweb/external/welcome.aspx>

This site will give you all the directions to obtaining permission. This can take a few weeks to process, please plan accordingly so that the special appointment can be obtained in time for your wedding day. This certificate will need to be filed with your license when we file them with the state.

For additional assistance or information you may contact the town clerk (781-871-1874 X 1), or:

Registry of Vital Records and Statistics
Department of Public Health
150 Mt. Vernon Street
Dorchester, MA 02125-3105
(617) 740-2600

www.state.ma.us/dph/rvr.htm

Congratulations and much happiness as you begin your lifetime journey together!